

Lophortyx gambeli. The next day I took another *Harporhynchus lecontei* and saw three more. Rain fell steadily nearly all day, and as that made us independent of wells we struck across country to the Poso Moroneno. Traveling was very bad, and we even mired twice, and were delayed by swollen streams where were dry 'washes' as we came down. The scarcity of provisions was becoming a serious matter with us, as we had not counted on delays by *excess* of water, but we finally reached Caborca, dinnerless. While camped over night twenty miles below Caborca, waiting for the water to subside enough to allow our crossing, I heard at twilight what I supposed was a *Micrathene whitneyi*, but failed to get it. The next morning I heard it again and saw two small Owls in a bush before it was light enough to tell positively what species they were, but the one I shot was *Glaucidium phalænoides*; the other disappeared, so it is possible that the two species may have similar notes, as from their actions I think these two Owls were of the same species.

Nothing further worth noting was seen until we passed Sasabe. On reaching the good grass we gave the horses a day's rest, and I searched for 'Bob-whites,' but failed to find any, but shot a *Centronyx bairdi*, and the next day a second. Each was alone, not wild; no note was heard, and its flight was zigzag.

Reached Tucson September 1, having traveled nearly five hundred miles on the round trip. While my lot of skins was small, only about fifty, Mr. Pringle brought in a large quantity of plants, very many of which proved to be new, and we voted the journey a success.

A few days later Mr. Herbert Brown showed me two male *Colinus ridgwayi*, sent him a short time before from the neighborhood of the Baboquivori Mountains, within Arizona; so this species has positively been taken within the United States.

THE GULLS OF THE CALIFORNIAN COAST.

BY H. W. HENSHAW.

IN fall and winter the coast of California, and, indeed, the whole Pacific coast from Puget Sound to Cape St. Lucas, is fairly

swarming with Gulls, and it is surprising that so little has been made known respecting the species represented and their relative numbers.

A limited opportunity for collecting and making observations on the coast from Santa Barbara to San Diego during the months of November and December of 1884, yielded some notes which seem worthy of record.

Larus argentatus smithsonianus.—This Gull has hitherto been reported from the Pacific coast only from Alaska. It is an exceedingly abundant species from Santa Barbara to San Diego, frequenting the shore and bays in numbers second only to the *Larus occidentalis*. Indeed in some localities it doubtless outnumbers the latter species as a winter resident.

Larus occidentalis.—Very numerous. This is *par excellence* the Gull of the Californian coast, being abundant at all seasons.

Larus delawarensis and

Larus californicus.—Both species are fairly numerous.

Larus philadelphæ.—This species is not uncommon in San Diego Bay in December, and I saw it on the coast farther north in November. The bulk of the species, however, probably winters to the southward.

Larus canus and

Larus brachyrhynchus.—Under these two names I mention provisionally two species of small Gulls which appear to be quite identical with two species inhabiting Alaska in summer, farther south than which they have not been known hitherto to occur. Both appear to be not uncommon along the southern coast of California, though they are, perhaps, the least common of the several species mentioned.

Whether the *L. canus* (so-called) of Alaska is identical with the European species, or whether it is a distinct form (species or variety), is at present in doubt, and much more material is necessary to settle the question than is at present contained in the National Museum collection.

The exact status of the Alaskan *L. brachyrhynchus*, its relationship to the European species and to *L. canus*, is also doubtful, from a similar lack of specimens. Mr. Walter Bryant has kindly sent me for examination a specimen of *brachyrhynchus* in immature plumage, taken in San Francisco Bay in the late fall, where he reports it as being uncommon. It is noticeable that nearly all the specimens observed by myself, together with the few taken (with one exception), were young birds, the implication being that the adults for the most part winter further north, probably from San Francisco northward, and perhaps in Puget Sound.

Stercorarius parasiticus.—This species is common in Alaska, but the bird has not been known thus far from further south than British Columbia. It appears to be common in December from Santa Barbara north.